

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

November
2017

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



Small Business Start-Ups Booming



Analysis by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has revealed that the Edinburgh's Pentlands constituency has experienced the greatest business growth since 2010 — the number of companies has increased by 48% over the 2010-2016 period.

The data shows that in Scotland, three of the five constituencies

with the fastest growing business communities are in Edinburgh.

Gordon Macdonald, the MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands said: "It is fantastic to see that the business community in my constituency has grown faster than any other area of the country over the last six years.

"The SNP Government's efforts to support small businesses, through initiatives such as the Small Business Bonus Scheme, taking thousands of businesses out of rates altogether, has undoubtedly been a key part of this – as has the increased influence of our leading universities in the constituency at Heriot-Watt and Napier, while Edinburgh's traditional business district grows.

"Even the Opposition have commented on the analysis in a recent FSB press release and stated that '...it confirms the capital's reputation as a world-leading destination and a global financial powerhouse.'"

The Small Business Bonus Scheme provides business rates relief if the combined rateable value of the business premises in Scotland is £35,000 or less. In fact, you may not have to pay any business rates at all if the rateable value of your property is £15,000 or less.

There were 7,043 recipients of the scheme in Edinburgh, saving over £15 million in rates. The amount of SBBS relief provided has also increased in each year of the scheme and now provides a total of £180 million in relief for small businesses throughout Scotland.

Bus Consultation



The Scottish Government have launched two new public consultations: -

1. Local Bus Services in Scotland – Improving the Framework for Delivery

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/improving-bus-services>

2. Future of Smart Ticketing

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/smart-ticketing-in-scotland>

Both of the above consultations will close on 5 December.

The results of these consultations will be used to determine the future of local bus services and the introduction of more efficient ticketing systems.

Please take the opportunity to let the Scottish Government know in order to shape the services you receive.

Out and About...

Banking Survey in JG



Concerned by the closure of so many banks in the community, Juniper Green Community Council have undertaken a consultation with residents to hear how they might be able to fill the gap in provision of financial services

The Community Council secured funding to investigate ideas in further detail and is keen to find out whether people need a community banking service and also to look at what else local people would want to see happening from a community owned building in Juniper Green.

Gordon noted, "It is envisaged that this will include more than just a banking service but will not replace any existing activities taking place at existing community and village halls. They are also keen to hear from people in Balerno, Currie, Baberton Mains, Colinton and Wester Hailes."

If you wish to comment, complete the questionnaire below. All information is confidential and it should only take 10 minutes to complete: -

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JuniperG

Harvester's Way Housing



Gordon successfully submitted a motion to the Scottish Parliament congratulating Places for People Scotland and Lovell on their new housing development at Harvester's Way in south-west Edinburgh. The development comprises 183 one-, two- and three-bed homes and has been shortlisted in the *Excellence in Development for Affordable Housing* category at the 2017 Chartered Institute of Housing Excellence Awards. Gordon commented, "*This development is a high-quality contemporary design that has transformed a once derelict area.*"

By email

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Home visit

Available for those who cannot travel

By phone

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By letter

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Gordon Macdonald MSP



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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

- 1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
- 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
- 3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
- 4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfangs Library
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Faster Broadband



More fibre broadband has gone live across Edinburgh thanks to the £428 million Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband roll-out.

In the constituency, coverage has now recently been extended to Ratho and Balerno, offering connections speeds up to 80Mbps.

Gordon noted "This programme is one of the largest broadband infrastructure projects in Europe and has reached another 34,000 properties in the last six months.

"As we committed, we are on track to reach 95% coverage by the end of this year."

Contact Details

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands